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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #7102-83
28 September 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : National Intelligence Officer for Warning

FROM : Harry C. Cochran
Special Assistant for Warning

SUBJECT : Warning Report

Lebanon

(1) The precarious ceasefire is vulnerable to inevitable power plays as rival factions maneuver for advantage in the projected national reconciliation conference. One of the most volatile issues probably will be the degree of authority vested in this conference. The Syrians and their Lebanese allies will continue to demand that President Gemayel pledge in advance to accept conference recommendations. They suspect the president and the Phalangists will maneuver to deadlock political negotiations and that the Phalange party and militia will then cite the impasse as justification for moving toward formation of a Christian ministate.

(2) An impasse over terms for convening the reconciliation conference or in actual negotiations is likely to result in an early breakdown of the ceasefire. The Syrians almost certainly expect an early deadlock, and they probably believe the U.S. will then be drawn toward greater political support for the Gemayel government and military assistance to the Lebanese Army. Syrian tactics in the next few weeks probably were foreshadowed by Foreign Minister Khaddam's demand on 26 September for the immediate withdrawal of the Marines and other MNF contingents and his claim that the Saudis support this demand.

USSR-INF

(1) The Soviets in the next month will take further initiatives to get their anti-INF campaign back on track in the aftermath of the shutdown of the Korean airliner. Andropov has sent letters to both Chancellor Kohl and SPD Bundestag deputies.

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USSR in the "immediate future" might move to the Urals all but 80 of the SS-20's with those on British and French missiles. A member of the Institute of the USA and Canada stated that the Soviets would announce a new calculation of the INF balance in the next month.

(2) Andropov may advance initiatives along these lines during his visit to Bulgaria in late October.

Philippines

(1) A series of flashpoints may occur that will threaten to unravel the Marcos government and disrupt plans for President Reagan's visit in November. Both moderate and radical opposition groups intend to stage sit-ins and provoke clashes with police. The opposition has begun to attack the presence of U.S. military bases.

(2) The political disarray will provide new openings for the Communist New People's Army. Communists and radical groups such as the League of Filipino Students and the National Democratic Front may attempt to stage violent demonstrations at Clark Air Base and Subic Bay.

Cuba-Angola

(1) The Cubans are preparing the ground for expanding their military presence in Angola. Vice Foreign Minister Alarcon has said Cuba is ready to send more troops if requested by the Angolan government. Havana radio has quoted President dos Santos as saying more Cuban aid would be sought if needed.

(2) Both regimes apparently expect intensified hostilities with UNITA insurgents and South African forces in the next few months.

Argentina

(1) A severe political crisis may occur either before scheduled elections in late October or after the results have become known. The junta may reverse its decision to dissolve itself and transfer power to an elected civilian government if the high command comes to believe that its future status will be threatened. There is widespread concern in the officer corps that disunity and confusion in the military leadership may endanger military institutions after a civilian government assumes office. Escalating strikes by rival labor unions prior to the elections could trigger strong military reactions and a serious upheaval.



Harry C. Cochran

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SUBJECT: Warning Report

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